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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Chung-Shuan Li)
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 SERIAL NO: 10/722,794) Group Art Unit: 3749
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)
 TITLE: COOKING ASSEMBLY WITH A RETAINING CLIP FOR COUPLING
 FIRST AND SECOND TUBES THEREOF

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The cooking assembly as defined in Claim 1,~~

A cooking assembly comprising:

a cooking device formed with a first tube;

a gas supply formed with a second tube;

a coupling unit including first and second coupling members, said first coupling member being formed with a pair of diametrically disposed openings and being formed on one of said first and second tubes, said second coupling member being formed with a retention groove and being formed on the other of said first and second tubes, the other of said first and second tubes extending co-axially into said one of said first and second tubes in such a manner that said retention groove in the other of said first and second tubes is aligned with said openings in said one of said first and second tubes; and

a retaining clip extending in a first transverse direction relative to said first and second tubes, and including a U-shaped segment disposed at one side of said one of said first and second tubes, two clamping segments extending respectively from two opposite ends of said U-shaped segment in said first transverse direction through said openings in said first coupling member and said retention groove in said second coupling member in such a manner that said clamping segments engage releasably said retention groove so as to prevent removal of the other of said first and second tubes from said one of said first and second tubes, and two operating segments disposed at an opposite side of said one of said first and second tubes opposite to said one side of said one of said first and second tubes, extending

respectively from said clamping segments, crossing each other, and resiliently movable toward each other in a second transverse direction relative to said first transverse direction and said first and second tubes upon application of an external force thereto so as to move said clamping segments away from each other to disengage from said retention groove, thereby permitting removal of the other of said first and second tubes from said one of said first and second tubes;

wherein said cooking device includes a casing and an inverted U-shaped cover, said one of said first and second tubes projecting outwardly from said casing, said inverted U-shaped cover being fixed to said casing, and having an upper curved section disposed above said one of said first and second tubes, and left and right side sections extending respectively and downwardly from two opposite ends of said upper curved section and disposed at said sides of said one of said first and second tubes, said right side section being distal from said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip and being formed with an elongated guiding slot that permits extension of said clamping segments therethrough, said left side section being disposed adjacent to said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip and being formed with two spaced-apart limiting holes that respectively permit extension of said clamping segments therethrough so as to prevent untimely removal of said retaining clip from said cover.

3. (currently amended) ~~The cooking assembly as defined in Claim 1,~~

A cooking assembly comprising:

a cooking device formed with a first tube;

a gas supply formed with a second tube;

a coupling unit including first and second coupling members, said first coupling member being formed with a pair of diametrically disposed openings and being formed on one of said first and second tubes, said second coupling member being formed with a retention groove and being formed on the other of said first and second tubes, the other of said first and second tubes extending co-axially into said one of said first and second tubes in such a manner that said retention groove in the other of said first and second tubes is aligned with said openings in said one of said first and second tubes; and

a retaining clip extending in a first transverse direction relative to said first and second tubes, and including a U-shaped segment disposed at one side of said one of said first and second tubes, two clamping segments extending respectively from

two opposite ends of said U-shaped segment in said first transverse direction through said openings in said first coupling member and said retention groove in said second coupling member in such a manner that said clamping segments engage releasably said retention groove so as to prevent removal of the other of said first and second tubes from said one of said first and second tubes, and two operating segments disposed at an opposite side of said one of said first and second tubes opposite to said one side of said one of said first and second tubes, extending respectively from said clamping segments, crossing each other, and resiliently movable toward each other in a second transverse direction relative to said first transverse direction and said first and second tubes upon application of an external force thereto so as to move said clamping segments away from each other to disengage from said retention groove, thereby permitting removal of the other of said first and second tubes from said one of said first and second tubes;

wherein said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip has a concave inner face defining a recess, said cooking device further including a casing and a positioning rod that is formed on said casing, that is parallel to said one of said first and second tubes, and that extends through said recess defined by said U-shaped segment in such a manner as to abut against said inner face of said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip so as to enhance retention of said retaining clip on said one of said first and second tubes.

4. (currently amended) The cooking assembly as defined in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein each of said operating segments of said retaining clip has a C-shaped portion, said C-shaped portions of said operating segments being parallel to said clamping segments and being aligned with each other in said second transverse direction.

5. (currently amended) The cooking assembly as defined in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said second coupling member has a rounded end so as to facilitate insertion thereof through said clamping segments of said retaining clip.

6. (currently amended) The cooking assembly as defined in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said retention groove in said second coupling member has a rectangular cross-section.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) A cooking assembly comprising:
a cooking device formed with a first tube;

a gas supply formed with a second tube;

a coupling unit including first and second coupling members, said first coupling member being formed with a pair of diametrically disposed openings and being formed on one of said first and second tubes, said second coupling member being formed with a retention groove and being formed on the other of said first and second tubes, the other of said first and second tubes extending co-axially into said one of said first and second tubes in such a manner that said retention groove in the other of said first and second tubes is aligned with said openings in said one of said first and second tubes; and

a retaining clip extending in a first transverse direction relative to said first and second tubes, and including a U-shaped segment disposed at one side of said one of said first and second tubes and having a concave inner face defining a recess, two clamping segments extending respectively from two opposite ends of said U-shaped segment in said first transverse direction through said openings in said first coupling member and said retention groove in said second coupling member in such a manner that said clamping segments engage releasably said retention groove so as to prevent removal of the other of said first and second tubes from said one of said first and second tubes, and two operating segments disposed at an opposite side of said one of said first and second tubes opposite to said one side of said one of said first and second tubes, extending respectively from said clamping segments, crossing each other, and resiliently movable toward each other in a second transverse direction relative to said first transverse direction and said first and second tubes upon application of an external force thereto so as to move said clamping segments away from each other to disengage from said retention groove in the other of said first and second tubes, thereby permitting removal of the other of said first and second tubes from said one of said first and second tubes;

wherein said cooking device including a casing, an inverted U-shaped cover and a positioning rod, said one of said first and second tubes projecting outwardly from said casing, said inverted U-shaped cover being fixed to said casing, and having an upper curved section disposed above said one of said first and second tubes, and left and right side sections extending respectively and downwardly from two opposite ends of said upper curved section and disposed at said sides of said one of said first and second tubes, said right side section being distal from said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip and being formed with an elongated guiding

slot that permits extension of said clamping segments therethrough, said left side section being disposed adjacent to said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip and being formed with a limiting hole that permits extension of said clamping segments therethrough, said positioning rod being formed on said casing, being parallel to said one of said first and second tubes, and extending through said recess defined by said U-shaped segment in such a manner as to abut against said inner face of said U-shaped segment of said retaining clip so as to enhance retention of said retaining clip on said one of said first and second tubes.

9. (new) The cooking assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein each of said operating segments of said retaining clip has a C-shaped portion, said C-shaped portions of said operating segments being parallel to said clamping segments and being aligned with each other in said second transverse direction.

10. (new) The cooking assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein said second coupling member has a rounded end so as to facilitate insertion thereof through said clamping segments of said retaining clip.

11. (new) The cooking assembly as defined in Claim 3, wherein said retention groove in said second coupling member has a rectangular cross-section.